CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

Claims 9,10 and 13-15 should read as follows:

9. (amended) A process for producing uracil-auxotrophic microorganisms, which comprises modifying an orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase gene having the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 or its homologs as claimed in claim 1 in such a way that the protein encoded by the gene is inactive, and introducing this modified gene into the microorganisms and integrating said gene by homologous recombination into the genome of the organisms, and subsequently selecting these microorganisms for resistance to 5-fluoroorotic acid.

10. (amended) A process for inserting DNA into microorganisms, which comprises inserting a vector which comprises an intact orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase gene having the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 or its homologs as claimed in claim 1 together with at least one other nucleic acid sequence, into a microorganism which is deficient in orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase nucleic acid sequence having the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 or its homologs as claimed in claim 1 together with at least one other nucleic acid sequence, into a microorganism which is deficient in orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase nucleic acid sequences, and cultivating this microorganism on or in a culture medium without uracil.

13. (amended) A process as claimed in claim 10, wherein at least one gene of riboflavin synthesis is inserted as additional gene into the microorganism.

Sub 394 D1 Cont

14. (amended) A process for selecting cells, said process comprising the step of transforming cells with a gene sequence or its homologs as claimed in claim 1.

15. (amended) The process as claimed in claim 14 for *Ashbya gossypii*.